

John O. Norquist  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

December 29, 2003

To The Honorable, the Common Council  
of the City of Milwaukee

Honorable Members of the Common Council:

On December 19, 2003 the Common Council voted nine to seven to pass a measure allowing City of Milwaukee tavern owners to lock their doors, allowing entrance to patrons only after viewing them on video cameras.

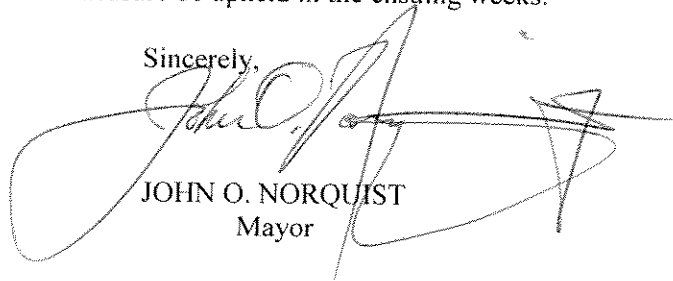
Sponsors of the ordinance argued that this arrangement would allow tavern keepers to keep out patrons who may have criminal and/or violent intent. I disagree. A video camera cannot discern a hidden weapon. A video camera cannot detect the intent of a person bent on crime.

I am deeply concerned about potential problems the ordinance will create for the safety of patrons inside a locked premise, and the difficulties posed for fire and police personnel. These concerns are shared by Milwaukee Fire Chief Bill Wentlandt and by Milwaukee Police Chief Nan Hegarty, both of whom wrote of their concerns in letters sent to my office. I have attached copies of both letters. In the case of the Police Department, you will recall that Sgt. John Hogan and Deputy Inspector Raymond Sucik presented their concerns about this ordinance in person to aldermen as it made its way through committee. Subsequent revisions of the measure have done nothing to allay their concerns.

As you will see by what Chief Wentlandt and Chief Hegarty have written, the ordinance would present multiple challenges to both human safety and crime control. They raise scenarios where bartenders or tavern managers may be incapacitated and unable to "buzz in" authorities responding to crime, fire or injury, or when those in management desire to keep authorities out.

Because of the serious concerns of the Police Chief, the Fire Chief and this Mayor, I am vetoing ordinance file #021312. I urge that my veto of the measure be upheld in the ensuing weeks.

Sincerely,



JOHN O. NORQUIST  
Mayor

JON/RSA/pks

Cc: Chief Nan Hegarty, Milwaukee Police Department  
Chief Bill Wentlandt, Milwaukee Fire Department